



Town Report of Norwich, Vermont

Fiscal Year 2005

July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

Hannah Kearney: World Champion

Norwich's Hannah Kearney won the World Championships in moguls last winter at the age of 19. She started the current season off with a bang, winning the first World Cup competition in Tignes, France. She went on to ensure herself an Olympic berth by winning the U.S. Olympic Team trials in late December. She will be competing in the 2006 Olympics on February 11, while this report is in publication.

Hannah follows a long line of Norwich Olympians and National Champions, but to our knowledge she is the first World Champion raised in Norwich. In fact, in fifth grade Hannah was in the Marion Cross band and helped to send off Tim Tetreault to the 1998 Nagano Olympics. Former Olympians either from Norwich or currently residing in Norwich include Betsy Snite; Jeff and Chris Hastings; Felix McGrath; Mike, Joe and Jim Holland; Tim Tetreault; Michael McGean; Marilyn Cochran Brown; and Tiger Shaw. Norwich's Daniel Johnson was a two-time National Champion in wildwater kayaking, while current resident Michael McGean was World Ice Dance Champion.



Hannah started skiing at the age of 2, and in first grade enrolled in the popular Ford Sayre after-school program at the Dartmouth Skiway. It was this program that first ignited her interest in freestyle skiing. She eventually moved on to the ski program at Waterville Valley. By 2002, Hannah won the Eastern and Junior National moguls championship, as well as the Junior Worlds Championship. She repeated these wins in 2003. She entered her first World Cup event at the age of 16. At age 17, she had her first World Cup win, and two weeks later won her second World Cup after turning 18. Her current moguls runs include two jumps, typically a back-flip iron cross at the top of the course, and a heli (360-degree rotation) at the bottom.

In addition to her skiing accomplishments, Hannah was a straight A student at Hanover High School. She graduated in the Class of 2004 as one of 17 students graduating maxima cum laude. She was an all-state soccer player and track athlete at Hanover High. Hannah's many Norwich friends always mention on her warm personality. Richard Wallace, at Omer & Bob's Sport Shop, reports that Hannah is one of their most gracious national caliber athletes. She is always very thankful for any assistance, and frequently writes thank you notes for the extra attention provided for her special needs as a world-class athlete. The Marion Cross School provided Hannah with an Olympic send-off on January 17, and she inspired the children with her comments.

Hannah's mother is Jill Kearney, the Norwich Recreation Director, and her father is Tom Kearney.

Norwich salutes Hannah's accomplishments, her grace as champion, and the fabulous role model she provides to Norwich children.

Cover photo of skating rink on the Norwich Green thanks to Bernard Haskell.

**TOWN OF NORWICH, VERMONT, AND
NORWICH TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 7, 2006**

The legal voters of the Town of Norwich, Vermont, and the Norwich Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet in Tracy Memorial Hall, Norwich, Vermont, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2006, to transact business not requiring a vote by Australian ballot. Voting for Town Officers and for all articles on the Warning will be by Australian ballot. The polls will be open Tuesday, March 7, 2006, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

This meeting is called to determine if the Town will:

Article 1. Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

Article 2. Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2006.

Article 3. Hear and act on the reports of the Officers of the Town and Town School District.

Article 4. Approve a gross spending General Town Budget of \$3,564,354 plus unanticipated state and federal grants and gifts consistent with budgeted programs for the period July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007.

Article 5. Appropriate \$135,000 for the operating expenses of the Norwich Public Library Association.

Article 6. Appropriate \$2,000 to ACORN (A Community Resource Network).

Article 7. Appropriate \$7,311 to Advance Transit.

Article 8. Appropriate \$1,284 to The Family Place.

Article 9. Appropriate \$2,500 to Headrest.

Article 10. Appropriate \$529 to SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action).

Article 11. Appropriate \$5,300 to the White River Council on Aging.

Article 12. Appropriate \$1,000 to Windsor County Partners.

Article 13. Appropriate \$2,500 to WISE (Women's Information Service).

Article 14. Appropriate \$6,000 to Youth-In-Action.

Article 15. Appropriate \$9,200 to the Cemetery Commission under 18 VSA § 5361 to supplement the interest from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund for maintenance of the Town Cemeteries.

Article 16. Appropriate \$3,000 to the Cemetery Commission for headstone restoration.

Article 17. Appropriate \$2,500 to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance.

Article 18. Appropriate \$1,906 to Windsor County Court Diversion Program.

Article 19. Appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) to the Norwich Historical Society and Community Center to assist with general operations.

Article 20. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate Twelve Thousand, Two Hundred Thirteen Dollars (\$12,213) to the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH in support of various programs?

Article 21. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate Three Thousand, Ninety-Three Dollars (\$3,093) to the Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeast Vermont in support of community services provided to Norwich?

Article 22. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$25,000 to create a fund for the development and construction of sidewalks and bicycle paths?

Article 23. Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,344 to The Child Care Center for a one-year income-sensitive scholarship?

Article 24. Vote a five-year extension of the exemption from property taxes previ-

ously granted to The University Grange under the provisions of 32 VSA § 3840.

Article 25. Vote a five-year extension of the exemption from property taxes previously granted to the Root District Game Club under the provisions of 32 VSA § 3840.

Article 26. Vote a five-year extension of the exemption from property taxes previously granted to the Beaver Meadow Union Chapel under the provisions of 32 VSA § 3840.

Article 27. Pursuant to 24 VSA § 2741(a)&(c) and 32 VSA § 3832(7), vote to renew and extend for five years the property tax exemption agreements between the Town of Norwich and the Norwich Fire District for two parcels of land owned by the Norwich Fire District, parcel #1 being approximately 350 acres lying southwest of Beaver Meadow Road and adjacent to Charles Brown Brook, and parcel #2 being approximately 567 acres lying along Beaver Meadow Road and Tucker Hill Road; to exempt these lands from property tax and to keep in place the deeds conveying the development and recreation rights on said lands to the Town of Norwich, under which deeds the Norwich Fire District retained forestry and water rights. These development and recreation rights will revert to the Norwich Fire District if the tax exemptions are revoked or if they are not extended by renewal when required. This will also synchronize the agreement renewal anniversaries for both properties.

Article 28. Require that taxes be paid in U.S. funds in two installments. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Norwich Finance Office on or before 4:30 p.m. August 18, 2006, and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 p.m. February 9, 2007. An official United States Post Office postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1 percent per month for the first three months and 1 1/2 percent per month thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8-percent collection fee in accordance with Vermont Statutes after February 9, 2007. All taxes, interest and collection fees will be paid into the Town Treasury.

Article 29. Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual Norwich Town Meeting.

Article 30. Authorize the Board of School Directors to make available school facilities and equipment for specified public purposes if those purposes appear to be in the best interest of the residents of the District, due consideration being given to efficient, economical, and appropriate use of the facilities and equipment in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(11).

Article 31. Authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(9).

Article 32. Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(5)?

Article 33. Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District authorize the School Board to pursue an energy-efficiency project that would install energy-efficient lighting and photovoltaic electrical panels at the Marion Cross School? The total cost of this project is estimated at \$75,000. An estimated \$46,000 of this expense would be funded from the Vermont Department of Education Construction Aid program, and the \$29,000 balance from the District's building maintenance reserve fund.

Article 34. Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District appropriate \$4,183,748, necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2006,

and ending June 30, 2007?

Article 35. Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual meeting of the Norwich Town School Board.

Norwich Selectboard

Alison M. May, Chair
John Candon
Gerard Chapdelaine
Edwin Childs
Ben Ptashnik

Norwich School Board

Mary Sachsse, Chair
Margaret Cheney
Linda Gray
Deborah Kaplan
Geoffrey Vitt

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

March 7, 2006

Moderator (1 year)

Warren Thayer

Dresden-Norwich School Director

(3 years)

Mary Sachsse

Norwich School Director

(2 years)

Stanton Williams

Lister (3 years)

Jean M. Essex

Selectman (3 years)

Alison M. May

Selectman (2 years)

John C. Candon

Auditor (3 years)

Karen Kayen

Cemetery Commissioner (5 years)

Ed Janeway

Douglas Rexford

Cemetery Commissioner

(4-year unexpired term)

Robert G. Parker

Trustee of Trust Funds (3 years)

Barbara C. Merrill

VOTER INFORMATION

Registration: To be eligible to vote in this election, people must register to vote and applications to the checklist must be received by the Town Clerk by noon on Monday, February 27, 2006.

Absentee Ballots: All requests for absentee voter ballots must be made prior to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2006. There are three ways you may vote by absentee ballot:

1. Voters may vote in person in the Town Clerk's office. 17 VSA § 2537.
2. Ballots may be delivered by teams of Justices of the Peace to voters who are absent due to illness or physical disability. The Town Clerk must receive notice no later than three days in advance. 17 VSA § 2538.
3. Ballots may be mailed to absent voters if a valid application has been filed with the Town Clerk. 17 VSA § 2539.

Curbside Voting: Election officials are permitted "to carry a ballot to a handicapped or elderly person in order to permit that person to mark his ballot while in a motor vehicle adjacent to the polling place." 17 VSA, § 2502(b).

Tracy Hall is handicapped accessible. Any person needing additional assistance should contact the Town Clerk at least four days before Town Meeting.



IN MEMORIAM
Shirley Owen

When Shirley Owen passed away on December 7, 2005, at the age of 66, the town of Norwich lost one of its most remarkable citizens. To her family, friends and neighbors she was known and loved for her kindness and generosity, for her forthrightness and common sense, for her gardening and sewing, and for the delicious meals and pies she so loved to make.

From the moment she and her husband, Arthur, arrived in Norwich in 1963, Shirley embraced their Beaver Meadow neighborhood. She has been described as “the epitome of community spirit.” That sense of community frequently led her to speak her mind and ask astute questions at Selectboard and Town Meetings, adding an important perspective to town government. She was also as ready to mother, console, teach and protect a neighbor’s child as she was her own and often did so. Many of those children, now grown, spoke movingly at her memorial service of how her willingness to treat them as part of her family had changed their lives.

Shirley’s energy and straightforward attitude to life’s challenges never failed her. On her wedding day, when circumstances required her to give Arthur’s uncooperative English Ford a push, Shirley, clad in her wedding dress, never hesitated. In recent years, she continued to help Arthur with his excavation business. On one home addition project this involved holding up beams as he worked on the foundation. While the distressed homeowner, who knew of Shirley’s heart problems, couldn’t convince her to stop, she did finally talk her into accepting some assistance.

The program for her memorial service contained some of her thoughts as she approached the end of her life. With her family’s permission, we reprint those words below.

After Glow

I’d like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I’d like to leave an after glow of smiles when life is done.
I’d like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I’d like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun
of happy memories that I leave when life is done.



IN MEMORIAM

Greg Hemberger

Greg died on January 28, 2006, while skiing with a group of close friends at the Balsams in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire.

Greg was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1947. His family bought a cabin on Mascoma Lake before he attended Dartmouth. Greg, wife June and son Ben moved to Lebanon in 1973, the month his daughter, Gretchen, was born in the old Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital. In 1976 June convinced him to buy what was then a two-family house on Mechanic Street in Norwich. He was honored to be purchasing a house formerly owned by a Dartmouth professor whom he revered.

He loved the old New England beauty of Norwich. He loved bringing his children up in a small town, where he could bump into friends at Dan & Whit's and take out-of-town friends on a tour of that store. He loved going to the Norwich Pageant with old friends and to the candlelight service at the Norwich Congregational Church. He had fond memories of taking his kids to the old Norwich Fair on the Green and the Norwich Parade, and he loved visiting with friends and neighbors at the Norwich dump.

An award-winning architect, Greg was honored to have worked closely with the schools and communities of Norwich and Hanover to design a renovation and addition to the Marion Cross School and the new Richmond Middle School and the renovation and remodeling of Hanover High School. He loved sharing his home with friends and neighbors. He loved sharing his pond with the Marion Cross schoolchildren and clearing the pond for hockey games and skating. He enjoyed quiet walks, cross-country skiing and rollerblading in Norwich. He loved living in Vermont and all that Vermont stands for.

He will be missed for his kind ways, infectious spirit and good humor. He will be loved and fondly remembered by those who had the good fortune of knowing him.